

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Wonder if any of those who voted to seat Lorimer did it because of his opposition to the initiative, referendum and recall?

A candidate for the democratic presidential nomination can not serve two masters. If he is not AGAINST Wall street he is WITH IT.

What is Virginia going to do on the income tax? Will her tax dodgers be able to control her legislature and prevent the indorsement of the amendment.

The president indicates that he will rely on the tariff commission to tell him how much reduction the protected interests can stand. Isn't that all that the woolen trust asked of the papers it tried to bribe with advertisements?

Arkansas has not yet indorsed the income tax amendment. The voters ought to see to it that every candidate for office is pledged to it. Arkansas can not afford to stand with the plutocrats on this important question.

The president is in hot water. The democrats are showing how far he falls below the standard as a tariff reformer and the insurgents are expelling him from the ranks of the moderate protectionists. The only enthusiastic friends he has left are the men who, by contributing to the presidential campaign fund, purchased the right to continue their exploitation.

Yes, Constant Reader, the democrats who "stood up and cheered" when Mr. Underwood denounced Mr. Bryan are now explaining to their constituents WHY Mr. Underwood apologized for accusing congressmen of "playing to the galleries," WHY he delayed the preparation of an iron and steel bill until an insurgent republican robbed him of that honor, and WHY Mr. Underwood has at last consented to an open caucus.

TYRANNY AND TYRANNY

President Taft is so afraid of the tyranny of the majority that he shudders at the recall, but he approves of New Mexico's constitution which subjects the majority to the tyranny of the minority.

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"ASK THE CANDIDATE"

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Commoner readers everywhere are advised to submit to the various presidential candidates questions something like the following:

1 Question—Do you favor tariff for revenue only?

1 Answer

2 Q—Do you favor free raw material and the placing of a revenue duty only on manufactured goods?

2 A.....

3 Q—Do you believe that in the revision of the tariff the element of protection should be given consideration?

3 A.....

4 Q—Do you believe that the three branches of government are co-ordinate and that each one should keep within its constitutional sphere?

4 A.....

5 Q—Do you approve the recent Standard Oil decision wherein the United States supreme court legislated the word "unreasonable" into the Sherman anti-trust act?

5 A.....

6 Q—Do you favor the repeal of the criminal clause of the anti-trust law or do you believe that in view of supreme court legislation congress should make it clear that all restraint of trade is unreasonable?

6 A.....

7 Q—Do you favor the election of senators by the people?

7 A.....

8 Q—Do you favor the income tax?

8 A.....

9 Q—Do you believe that it is the duty of the American people to promise independence to the Filipinos immediately and to give it in the same way in which they gave independence to the Cubans?

9 A.....

10 Q—Do you believe in the publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures both before and after election day in order that the people may know in advance the

character of support each party and candidate receives?

10 A.....

11 Q—Are you willing that the source of every dollar of contribution made to your campaign fund either after your nomination or during the contest for the nomination shall be made public prior to election day?

11 A.....

12 Q—Do you believe in the support of the state governments in all their rights?

12 A.....

13 Q—Do you indorse the labor planks of the 1908 platform?

13 A.....

14 Q—Do you believe in the strict regulation of railroads?

14 A.....

15 Q—Do you indorse the democratic platform of 1908 respecting trusts wherein it declares that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable" and presents a remedy?

15 A.....

16 Q—Do you approve the plan known as the Aldrich currency scheme?

16 A.....

17 Q—Do you favor asset currency in any form?

17 A.....

18 Q—Do you believe in the establishment of what is known as a central bank?

18 A.....

19 Q—Do you favor legislation compelling banks to insure depositors?

19 A.....

Let democrats everywhere ask questions and secure answers, thus finding out just what every candidate stands for. In this way democrats may be able to determine with some degree of intelligence as to the available candidate.

The Commoner will be glad to print the replies made to these questions by gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in connection with the democratic presidential nomination.

A PLUTOCRATIC PROTEST

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, one of the thick and thin defenders of plutocracy and one of the few papers supporting Lorimer, is very much agitated over the questions submitted to the candidates. It says, editorially:

"WHERE IS MR. BRYAN'S AUTHORITY?"

"G. W. Nagel writes from Fremont, Neb., to ask why we do not seem to take kindly to Mr. Bryan's catechism 'plan of informing the people as to the views held by those who expect to be candidates for the presidency,' and he further asks:

"If you are objecting to the public being informed, will you kindly so state and give your reasons? Or if you think the people have a right to know these views but are objecting to Mr. Bryan's method of obtaining the information, will you point out wherein Mr. Bryan's method is defective and suggest a better plan?"

"No, Mr. Nagel; we are not objecting to the people being informed. We are in the business. And it is so difficult a business that every honest man in it welcomes every sincere effort to make it easier to reach the desired goal, which is to get the people really and truly informed.

"We object to Mr. Bryan's method because it seems to us not a sincere effort. Mr. Bryan's method is obviously not that of the inquiring publicist seeking information for the people. It is that of the tricky legal cross-examiner,

framing his questions with intent to discredit some witnesses and exalt others in the jury's mind.

"Furthermore, and as we understand it, Mr. Bryan is simply a private citizen, holding no official position in the democratic organization, having no commission from the democratic party to catechise other democrats, having no authority to require them to answer his questions just as he sees fit to put them, under penalty of being regarded as heretics to the democratic faith.

"That is why we object to Mr. Bryan's attempted catechism. We consider it an impudent intrusion and an egotistic usurpation upon the functions of the democratic party through its national convention and other accredited organs."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Isn't that an awful indictment to bring against a private citizen whose only offense is that he asks candidates where they stand? Has it come to this that democrats who are simply private citizens must keep still while papers like the Inter-Ocean nominate the candidate? The Inter-Ocean does not hesitate to suggest republican candidates—it even suggests a democratic candidate for governor of Illinois in the same issue in which it denounces Mr. Bryan for asking troublesome questions. But while the Inter-Ocean and papers like it are spluttering around the candidates are answering the questions.